

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 2752

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS CG TO
SUBJ: PARIS MEETING ON PAN AFRICAN FORCE-PROBABLE TOGOLESE VIEWS

REF: A STATE 211443 B ABIDJAN 7788 C DAKAR 6359
D STATE 203722

1. FUTURE OF PAN AFRICAN FORCE--TOGOLESE PARTICIPATION
IN SHABA FORCE IS MOTIVATED BY COMBINATION OF PRESIDENT
EYADEMA'S PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP FOR MOBUTU, HIS MILITARY
BACKGROUND WHICH IMPLIES A CONFIDENCE IN MILITARY MEASURES AND
COLLECTIVE SECURITY, AND TOGO'S TIES WITH FRANCE. EYADEMA
RESPONDED TO THE INITIAL GABONESE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF
ZAIRE BY A PLEDGE TO COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND FOLLOWED UP
WITH A COMMITMENT OF TOGOLESE TROOPS TO AN AFRICAN
PEACEKEEPING FORCE BACKED BY FRANCE. FOR POLITICAL REASONS
HE PROBABLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES
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INVOLVED AS POSSIBLE. HE RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH A FORCE
REQUIRES MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COUNTRIES EXTERNAL TO
AFRICA, WHETHER FRANCE, THE US OR ARAB COUNTRIES. HE
IS ALSO PREPARED TO STAY THE LINE ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT
OF FRANCE AND FRIENDLY FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES. HIS CONCERN
FOR SOVIET INFLUENCE IN BENIN HEIGHTENS HIS DESIRE TO AID
ZAIRE DESPITE HIS FRIENDLY RESERVATIONS ABOUT MOBUTU'S

EFFECTIVENESS.

2. INDIVIDUAL COST ESTIMATES--WE HAVE NO WAY OF MAKING INDIVIDUAL COSTS ESTIMATES FOR TOGOLESE PARTICIPATION IN ZAIRE WITHOUT DIRECTLY ADDRESSING THIS QUESTION WITH THE GOT. TOGO'S BUDGET IS ALREADY RUNNING A HIDDEN DEFICIT, BUT TO WHAT EXTENT SUPPORT OF TOGOLESE TROOPS IN SHABA HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED DEFICIT SPENDING TO TOGO OR ARE BEING BORNE BY THE MOROCCANS IS UNCLEAR. WE SUSPECT THAT TOGOLESE COSTS FOR THE SHABA OPERATION ARE LARGELY EXTRA BUDGETARY. IN THE FUTURE, HOWEVER, TOGO MAY TURN TO FRANCE OR OTHER WESTERN SOURCES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF DETERIORATED VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. TOGO, OF COURSE, WOULD LIKE A MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE US BUT IS UNPREPARED TO STAY IN ZAIRE AS LONG AS THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE IS NEEDED AND SOMEBODY PICKS UP THE TAB.

3. PLANNED ROTATIONS, AUGMENTATIONS OR PHASEDOWNS--EYADEMA HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH HIS MILITARY STAFF THE QUESTION OF EVENTUAL ROTATION. INTERMITTENTLY HE HAS PRESSED THE FRENCH AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO INCREASE TOGOLESE STRENGTH IN ZAIRE FROM ABOUT 150 TO OVER 300 MEN. ROTATION, OF COURSE, ADDS TO SUPPORT COSTS AND A REQUEST FOR US AIRLIFT TO ACCOMPLISH IT IS A POSSIBILITY.

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4. WE SEE MERIT IN ABIDJAN'S SUGGESTION (REF B) THAT CONCERNED AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOLD SEPARATE CONFERENCE AND DAKAR'S IDEA THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE BE HELD IN AFRICA (REF C). GOT WOULD PREFER THAT THE AFRICAN NATURE OF THE SHABA STABILIZATION OPERATION BE STRESSED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WE BELIEVE SUCH AN EMPHASIS SERVES US PURPOSES, TOO. YOUNG

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